

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 3A.

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-37 stand rejected. By virtue of this response, claims 1 and 24 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-37 are currently under consideration. Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented.

For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants' remarks are presented in the same order in which they were raised in the Office Action.

Regarding the Drawings

The drawings stand objected to because the "hub 226" mentioned on page 10, paragraph [0031], line 2, is not numbered in the drawings.

Figure 3A is amended herein to include the reference numeral "226" and delete the reference numeral "225." Applicants request the objection be withdrawn.

Regarding the Specification

The disclosure stands objected to because of the following informalities: page 7, paragraph [0025], line 2, "14" should be changed to --24--; and page 11, paragraph [0033], line 2, -- of motor-- should be added after "hub".

Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out such informalities. Appropriate corrections have been made herein and Applicants request the objection be withdrawn.

Rejections of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16-21, 23-27, 29, and 31-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nawa (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0096589 A1).

Applicants respectfully submit that Nawa does not disclose or suggest an assembly including a reel driver having spline elements that are “directly registered circumferentially around and adjacent a portion of the motor,” as recited by amended claim 1. As described in the present application, for example, directly registering the spline elements, and in particular, the inner radius of the spline elements to an outer diameter portion of the motor may reduce radial runout by reducing tolerance stacking (see, e.g., ¶¶ [0007], [0018], [0020], and [0029]). This feature of claim 1 is not disclosed or suggested by the disclosure of Nawa.

The Examiner identifies rod-like protrusions 121a of cylindrical portion 121 of Nawa as spline elements and states that Nawa discloses “spline elements 121a accommodated in grooves 112a of a drive hub 110 ...” (see also, Nawa: ¶ [0026], and Figures 1 and 5-7). Applicants submit that rod-like protrusions 121a of Nawa are not “directly registered” circumferentially around and adjacent a portion of the motor, e.g., motor 60. Drive hub 110 is clearly described in Nawa as part of the loading mechanism 100 in paragraph [0025], which is attached to a portion of motor 60 via screws 101, and not a portion of motor 60. Thus, in clear contrast to the features of the present claims, rod-like protrusions 121a are registered to drive hub 110 and not a portion of motor 60. Figures 1 and 5-7 further illustrate that rod-like protrusions 121a are not “directly registered circumferentially around and adjacent a portion of the motor” as presently recited, but rather are engaged with drive hub 110. Accordingly, the assembly of Nawa includes tolerance stacking between motor 60 and hub 110, and further between hub 110 and rod-like protrusions 121a of cylindrical portion 121. This dual tolerance stacking may be avoided by registering the spline elements directly to a portion of the motor as presently recited and specifically discussed at paragraph [0029] of the present application. Therefore, Nawa fails to disclose or reasonably suggest each and every feature of claim 1 and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Similar features are included in independent claims 13, 24, and 29 (where claims 13 and 29 have not been amended herein) and should be allowable over Nawa for at least similar reasons as claim 1. For example, claim 13 recites “an inner diameter associated with circumferentially disposed spline elements is registered circumferentially around a portion of the first motor;” claim 24 recites “the spline elements are adapted to be registered circumferentially around a portion of a

motor;” and claim 29 recites “spline elements registered circumferentially around a hub of the spindle motor.”

Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed herein, Nawa does not disclose or suggest each and every feature of claims 1, 13, 24, and 29 and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejections of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 6, 8, 11, 14, 15, 22, 28, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Nawa.

Claims 6, 8, 11, 14, 15, 22, 28, and 30 depend from claims 1, 13, 24, and 29 respectively and are allowable over Nawa for at least similar reasons as claims 1, 13, 24, and 29. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

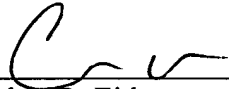
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 249212024800. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Christopher B. Eide
Registration No.: 48,375
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
755 Page Mill Road
Palo Alto, California 94304
(650) 813-5720